

I was a residential customer of AT&T/MediaOne cable broadband internet access since it was first available here several years ago.

The service quality steadily declined, with outages, email interruptions, floods of spam and trojan horse attacks, and slowdowns when neighbors come home from school or work. There was no competing cable provider, so the price went up. Then I got quotes from from several competing DSL providers and chose Covad.net.

I am very happy with broadband now, and my service is line shared.

I read in the press that the FCC intends to do away with line sharing because phone companies like Verizon are complaining about competition from cable modem service.

Let me tell you that having a SINGLE cable modem provider is not competition, and if it wasn't for competition from a multitude of DSL vendors the cable modem prices would have gone up further and faster.

Also, I really liked the fact that several DSL vendors were competing for my business, and when one of them offered a "free equipment" rebate the others followed with rebates of their own.

I think it's bad enough that there is only 1 vendor of basic local telephone service and I have no intention to make them my vendor of internet services, and now that we have the laws and the technology that makes it unnecessary to add a separate phone line I see no reason why the FCC should undo this progress.

In fact, I would believe that it is in the interest of consumers like me to have more choices available. I'd like to have mandatory line sharing on the cable network as well, so that I have access to alternate vendor(s) of cable TV or cable modem service, and for heaven's sake, don't threaten the viability of competing DSL providers now that they finally figured out how to deliver broadband.

Sincerely, Ray Khorram

PS: I subscribe to the following communications services:

1) local telephone:	\$20/mo	Verizon
2) long distance:	no monthly fee	Primus Tel
3) cell phone:	\$35/mo	Sprint PCS
4) DSL internet:	\$50/mo	Covad.net
5) basic cable TV:	\$12	AT&T/MediaOne